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POLAND: Purge of Party Liberals

A purge of party liberals will make it difficult for Premier Jaruzelski to carry out his pledge to continue reforms. Reports from Krakow indicate that the regime has given intellectuals better treatment than workers in the detention camps. TASS again has accused the US of interfering in Poland's internal affairs and violating the Helsinki Final Act.

A leading liberal in the Communist Party, Tadeusz Fiszbach, has resigned as party chief in Gdansk Province. Fiszbach had been a strong supporter of reforms and had sought--with relative success--to establish a working relationship with Solidarity.

Although some officials assert there will be no purge, the party media continue to emphasize that the party must remove quickly those people with "alien" ideological and political convictions. Jaruzelski's political and economic program will not be made public for another two to three weeks. A plenum of the Central Committee is being prepared, but no date has been set.

Comment: The purge in the party is probably hitting hardest the liberals who advocated that the party give up its highly centralized and authoritarian style of rule, although the evidence is inconclusive. This group includes intellectuals, members of the academic community, and workers in the largest and most strategic industries who were the strongest supporters of Solidarity. More resignations are expected before the Central Committee convenes.

A conservative victory in the party will present it with serious and long-term problems. By insisting on ideological purity and loyalty, the party will lose some of its most skilled people, thus making it difficult--if not impossible--for the party to initiate programs to meet Poland's problems. Despite his alleged desire to implement reforms, a conservative victory would diminish Jaruzelski's ability to do so. A conservative party will find it almost impossible to win any credibility with the population.

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382

~~Top Secret~~

Detainee Conditions

Contacts [redacted] report that small groups of detainees who were formerly Solidarity leaders are on hunger strikes in several prisons and that there was a "rebellion" by detainees being held near Rzeszow. Relatives of these detainees have been denied visiting rights, and letters and packages have not been distributed. One contact claimed that a "model prison" had been set up to deceive the Red Cross and other groups reporting on prison conditions. Archbishop Glemp, in his sermon on Wednesday evening, criticized conditions in some of the detention centers. [redacted]

Comment: Most earlier reports that said that conditions in detention camps were not bad had come from intellectuals. The more gentle handling of intellectuals may reflect, in part, a realization that the military government will be judged in the West more by its treatment of intellectuals than of workers. [redacted]

Soviet Commentary

TASS yesterday assailed Vice President Bush's remarks on Thursday as another attempt by the US to "sell its anti-Soviet line" to Western Europe. The article contended that Washington is exploiting divisions within Europe to pressure the Allies into applying their own sanctions against Poland and the USSR. [redacted]

TASS also attacked the decision by the Voice of America to increase the number of Polish-language broadcasts as an escalation of US "psychological war." The commentary described the broadcasts, along with those of Radio Free Europe, the British Broadcasting Corporation, Deutsche Welle, and others as a blatant effort to turn the population against the Warsaw government and the USSR, "in violation of the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Accords." [redacted]

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Comment: The TASS commentary on Western broadcasts also was intended as a response to the US demarche made on Thursday about Soviet jamming of Voice of America Polish-language broadcasts. Since the start of the Polish crisis in the fall of 1980, the Soviets have countered Western accusations that jamming violates those provisions of the Helsinki Final Act governing the free flow of information with the contention that some Western broadcasts contravene the Act's principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.



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